Approved For Release 2002/07/03 : CIA-RDP80T00294A001200080004-0

OUTGOING MESSAGE

LIMITED CHANNELS

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE	COI	ACP	TOG	TPE	MRO	DCI	TRI
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

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SDM

CLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR | DATE-TIME GROUP | CITE | MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SPECIAL DESIGNEES 25X1A

25X1A

ROUTING

	7		10		13	
	8		11		14	
	9		12		15	

25X1A
25X1A

TO: IMMEDIATE

HANDLE VIA TALENT-KEYHOLE COMINT CHANELS ONLY

25X1A
25X1A

25X1A

REFERENCE:

1. OWI IS UNAWARE OF ANY AERODYNAMIC OR OTHER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT CAUSE THE SOVIETS TO CONSIDER SHORTENING OR OTHERWISE MODIFYING BACKFIRE'S WINGS. 25X1D

25X1D

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE SOVIETS WOULD CONSIDER BACKFIRE-A ACCEPTABLE FOR PERIPHERAL OR NAVAL MISSIONS. OUR REASONING IS NOT RELATED TO ITS REDUCED RANGE BUT RATHER ITS INABILITY TO CARRY TWO WING-MOUNTED AS-4 MISSILES. THIS WEAPONS FIT WAS PROBABLY DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY FOR PERIPHERAL AND NAVAL MISSIONS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT GRAFTING BACKFIRE A'S SHORTENED OUTBOARD WING PANELS ONTO THE BACKFIRE B WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE EITHER.

DATE:
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CLASSIFICATION

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FORM 10-74 12F

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THIS IS BECAUSE BACKFIRE B'S LONGER WING SPAN PROBABLY WAS DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO MAINTAIN ROLL STABILITY WHEN THE AIRCRAFT IS FITTED WITH WING MOUNTED AS-4'S. ENHANCED RANGE AND IMPROVED TAKEOFF PERFORMANCE WAS PROBABLY A SECONDARY CONSIDERATION.

3. WE DO NOT INTEND TO TOTALLY PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT BE CONSIDERING MODIFICATIONS TO BACKFIRE TO INCLUDE SHORTENING THE WINGS. IF THEY ARE, HOWEVER, IT IS FOR TECHNICAL REASONS WHICH COMPLETELY ESCAPE US.

25X1A

25X1A

25X1A

4. WE CONTACTED AND OBTAINED A COPY OF THE FTD CABLE

25X1A

WE DO NOT TAKE EXCEPTION TO THE THRUST OF THE ANALYSIS, ALTHOUGH WE CONSIDER IT A BIT SIMPLISTIC. ITS MAJOR SHORTCOMING IS THAT IT ONLY ADDRESSES THE IMPACT ON THE BACKFIRE BOMBER. THE MOST SERIOUS DEGRADATION IN PERFORMANCE WILL BE TO THE BACKFIRE ASM CARRIER. CLIPPING THE WING TIPS OR FIXING THE SWEEP ANGLE WOULD HAVE MAJOR IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ASM CARRIER'S LOW-SPEED TAKEOFF AND LANDING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BACKFIRE BOMBER WOULD

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BE SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. WE DO, HOWEVER, AGREE WITH FTD THAT IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD ACCEPT THE WING MODIFICATIONS AS BEING PRACTICAL.

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DATE:
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COORDINATING OFFICERS

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